

What is claimed is:

1. Apparatus for gathering and analyzing a digitized physiological measurement comprising a computer system programmed to carry out the method of:

a) for a first individual,

i) receiving and storing information in a measurement device identifying an individual and information specifying one or more medical parameters of the individual;

ii) controlling the measurement device to obtain a digitized physiological measurement of the individual;

iii) establishing a communications link between the measurement device and a central information-processing system;

iv) transferring to and storing in the central information-processing system the information identifying the individual, the information specifying one or more medical parameters of the individual, and the digitized physiological measurement of the individual;

v) storing, in the central information-processing system, information identifying the measurement device;

vi) terminating the communications link between the measurement device and a central information-processing system;

b) performing steps a) i) through a) vi) for a second individual; and

c) creating, in the central information-processing system, a first invoice including a first billing charge for the physiological measurement of the first individual and a second billing charge for the physiological measurement of the second individual, wherein the invoice includes delivery information correlated to the information identifying the measurement device.

2. Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the computer system is programmed to carry out the further method of:

d) after obtaining a predetermined number of physiological measurements of individuals into the measurement device, blocking one or more functions of the measurement device until information is transferred to the central information-processing system; and

e) once information is transferred to the central information-processing system, re-enabling the one or more functions of the measurement device.

3. Apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the measurement device further includes an arterial-pulse-pressure sensor, wherein the digitized physiological measurement includes a digitized arterial-pulse-pressure waveform and one or more calculated compliance parameters, based on the arterial-pulse-pressure waveform, for a model of the vascular system of a human.

4. Apparatus according to claim 1, further including a plurality of measurement devices, wherein computer system is programmed to carry out the further method of:

d) creating, in the central information-processing system, a separate invoice for each one of the plurality of measurement devices, each invoice including a billing charge and a patient identification for each physiological measurement.

5. A computerized system for uploading information to an information-processing system, the computerized system comprising:

a first machine that includes:

an input port operable to obtain digital information about a first consumer;

an analyzer operable to automatically analyze the digital

information to generate a first analysis report for the first consumer,
based on the digital information; and

an upload communications port operable to automatically,
based on the generation of the first analysis report, establish a
communications link to the information-processing system and to
upload information from the first analysis report to the information-
processing system, and then to disconnect the communications link.

6. The system according to claim 5, further comprising:

an arterial-pulse-pressure sensor operably coupled to the input port in the
first machine, and wherein the digital information includes a digitized arterial-pulse-
pressure waveform, and the first analysis report includes one or more calculated
compliance parameters, based on the arterial-pulse-pressure waveform, for a model
of the vascular system of a human, and the uploaded information includes the one or
more calculated compliance parameters.

7. The system according to claim 5, further comprising:

an information-processing system configured to establish the
communications link in response to a request from the first machine and to receive
the upload information from the first analysis report to the information-processing
system, and to generate a first invoice associated with the first machine for use of
the first machine.

8. The system according to claim 5, further comprising:

an information-processing system; and
a second machine that includes:

an input port operable to obtain digital information about a
second consumer;

an analyzer operable to automatically analyze the digital

information to generate a second analysis report for the second consumer, based on the digital information; and

an upload communications port operable to automatically, based on the generation of the second analysis report, establish a communications link to the information-processing system and to upload information from the second analysis report to the information-processing system, and then to disconnect the communications link,

wherein the information-processing system is configured to establish the communications link in response to a request from the first machine and to receive the upload information from the first analysis report to the information-processing system and to generate a first invoice associated with the first machine for use of the first machine, and to establish the communications link in response to a request from the second machine and to receive the upload information from the second analysis report to the information-processing system and to generate a second invoice associated with the second machine for use of the second machine.

9. A method comprising:

establishing a first temporary communications link in response to a request from a first remote machine;

receiving upload information from the first remote machine to the information-processing system, the upload information including a first analysis report generated by the first machine;

disconnecting the first communications link;

establishing a second temporary communications link in response to a request from a second remote machine;

receiving upload information from the second remote machine to the information-processing system, the upload information including a second analysis report generated by the second machine;

disconnecting the second communications link;
aggregating the information of the first analysis report and the
information of the second analysis report for an overall analysis;
generating a first invoice associated with the first machine for use of the
5 first machine; and
generating a second invoice associated with the second machine for use
of the second machine.

10. The method of claim 9, further comprising:

10 sensing a first arterial pulse pressure waveform of a first person and
storing a digitized representation of the first arterial pulse pressure waveform in the
first remote machine;

analyzing the digitized representation of the first arterial pulse pressure
15 waveform to calculate one or more compliance parameters, based on the arterial
pulse pressure waveform, for a model of the first person's vascular system
wherein the upload information from the first remote machine includes the one or
more compliance parameters of the first person;

sensing a second arterial pulse pressure waveform of a second person and
storing a digitized representation of the second arterial pulse pressure waveform in
20 the second remote machine; and

analyzing the digitized representation of the second arterial pulse pressure
waveform to calculate one or more compliance parameters, based on the arterial
pulse pressure waveform, for a model of the second person's vascular system
wherein the upload information from the second remote machine includes the one or
25 more compliance parameters of the second person.

11. A computer system programmed to carry out the method of claim 10.

12. A computerized method for billing for analysis services comprising:

a) obtaining digital information for a first consumer into a first analysis system;

b) analyzing the digital information in the first analysis system to produce an analysis report for the first consumer;

5 c) establishing communications between the first analysis system and an information-processing system;

d) uploading information from the analysis report from the first analysis system to the information-processing system; and

10 e) generating, in the information-processing system, a first invoice for one or more charges associated with use of the first analysis system.

13. The method according to claim 12, further comprising:

f) obtaining digital information for a second consumer into a second analysis system;

15 g) analyzing the digital information in the second analysis system to produce an analysis report for the second consumer;

h) establishing communications between the second analysis system and the information-processing system;

20 i) uploading information from each of the one or more analysis reports from the second analysis system to the information-processing system; and

j) generating, in the information-processing system, a second invoice for charges associated with use of the second analysis system.

25 14. The method according to claim 13, wherein the digital information further includes demographic information regarding, and a representation of an arterial pulse pressure waveform of, each one of the respective consumers, and the analysis report includes one or more calculated compliance parameters, based on the arterial pulse pressure waveform, for a model of the vascular system of a human, the method further comprising:

k) generating, in the information-processing system, a summary report that shows an analysis combining information uploaded from the analysis report from the first analysis system with information uploaded from the analysis report from the second analysis system.

5

15. The method according to claim 12, wherein the digital information includes a representation of an arterial pulse pressure waveform of a person, and the analysis report includes one or more calculated compliance parameters, based on the arterial pulse pressure waveform, for a model of the vascular system of the person.

10

16. The method according to claim 12, wherein the digital information represents an arterial pulse pressure waveform of a person, and the analysis report includes a representation of the arterial pulse pressure waveform.

15

17. The method according to claim 12, wherein the first invoice includes an identifier for the first consumer and an associated charge for their use of the first analysis system.

20

18. The method according to claim 12, wherein the digital information represents an arterial pulse pressure waveform, and the analysis report includes one or more calculated compliance parameters, based on the arterial pulse pressure waveform, for a model of the vascular system of a person, and wherein the first invoice includes an identifier for the first consumer and an associated charge for their use of the first analysis system.

25

19. The method according to claim 12, the method further comprising:
l) disabling one or more functions of the first analysis system after a predetermined amount of use of the first analysis system; and
m) re-enabling the one or more functions of the first analysis system upon

successful completion of uploading of the information from the first analysis system to the information-processing system.

20. A computerized system for billing for analysis services comprising:
5 an analysis system that analyzes digitized physiological information to produce an analysis report for each of one or more persons; and
means for generating an invoice for one or more charges associated with use of the analysis system.

10 21. Apparatus for gathering and analyzing a digitized physiological measurement comprising:
a reception device that receives data sent from each of a plurality of remote measurement devices, the data including at least one measurement taken by each respective remote device;
15 a database operatively coupled to the reception device and configured to store a plurality of measurement records, each one of the records corresponding to one or more individual measurements; and
an invoicing system operatively coupled to obtain records from the database and operable to create a first invoice including a first billing charge for a first
20 measurement taken by a first remote measurement device and a second billing charge for a second measurement take by a second remote measurement, wherein each invoice includes delivery information correlated to information identifying the respective first or second measurement device.